

**To:** debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org[debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org]  
**Cc:** 'Ana Baptista'[abaptista@ironboundcc.org]; 'Douglas Sarno'[doug@forumfg.com]; Ayala, Wanda[Ayala.Wanda@epa.gov]  
**From:** Kluesner, Dave  
**Sent:** Thur 9/26/2013 9:47:02 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Dredging of Passaic River halted after swing bridge breaks

Yes. Agreed and I understand where you are coming from. We need to figure out a better communications system. I will inquire with Stephanie and the CPG about electronic updates on the project. EPA also has a role and can do better. Frankly we are struggling a bit with furloughs, end of fiscal year on September 30 and contingency planning for possible government shut down on Oct 1. I appreciate the nudge. Will try and call tomorrow to discuss further.

**From:** Debbie Mans [mailto:debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:12 PM  
**To:** Kluesner, Dave  
**Cc:** 'Ana Baptista'; 'Douglas Sarno'; Ayala, Wanda  
**Subject:** RE: Dredging of Passaic River halted after swing bridge breaks

Dave and Wanda

I just read online that the dredging started again on Sept. 18. Is there any way this information could be provided to CAG in a timely manner? Thanks, Debbie

Deborah A. Mans, Baykeeper & Executive Director

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**From:** Debbie Mans [<mailto:debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2013 1:00 PM  
**To:** Kluesner, Dave  
**Cc:** Ana Baptista; Douglas Sarno  
**Subject:** Re: Dredging of Passaic River halted after swing bridge breaks

Dave

Thanks for sharing. Really frustrating. I think re timing- I know things are fluid, but this is probably something the CAG shd get a heads up on before it hits the newspapers. Debbie

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 12, 2013, at 12:21 PM, "Kluesner, Dave" <[kluesner.dave@epa.gov](mailto:kluesner.dave@epa.gov)> wrote:

<image001.gif>

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/Dredging\\_of\\_Passaic\\_River\\_halted\\_after\\_swing\\_bridge\\_breaks.html?page=all](http://www.northjersey.com/news/Dredging_of_Passaic_River_halted_after_swing_bridge_breaks.html?page=all)

## **Dredging of Passaic River halted after swing bridge breaks**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013, 4:43 PM

BY [SCOTT FALLON](#)

STAFF WRITER

THE RECORD

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LYNDHURST — The dredging of contaminated mud on the Passaic River has been halted for at least 30 days because a century-old swing bridge has again broken down, preventing barges from hauling out the material, officials said Wednesday.

It is the second time in as many months that problems at the Bridge Street Bridge have delayed the project to remove about 20,000 cubic yards of dioxin-laden mud next to Riverside County Park.

Environmental Protection Agency officials said the site has been secured and dredging will resume immediately when the bridge connecting Newark to Harrison is able to swing open.

“It’s very key to the site,” said David Kluesner, an EPA spokesman. “We’re working full time to resolve this.”

Dredging was supposed to be completed in October and capping done by December. Those deadlines are pushed back at least a month, Kluesner said. About 40 percent of the contaminated mud has been dredged to date. Almost 8,000 tons has been transported offsite for processing.

“We’re as eager as everyone to get this project resumed,” said Jonathan Jaffe, a spokesman for Cooperating Parties Group, a collection of 70 companies that either polluted the river or inherited the liability of past polluters.

The \$20 million cleanup, paid by the group, is only the second time large amounts of contaminants have been removed from the Passaic River, one of the nation’s dirtiest waterways and a federal Superfund site for 17 miles from Newark Bay to the Dundee Dam in Garfield.

In late 2011, scientists discovered one of the highest concentrations of cancer-causing dioxin ever recorded at the surface of the Passaic River in a bend on the waterway next to Riverside County Park, 10.9 miles upriver from Newark Bay.

A plan to dredge and cap the area called for about 20,000 cubic yards of sediment to be scooped up, placed on barges and taken to a processing facility in Kearny. To get back and forth, the barges have to move under 11 mostly low-lying bridges that span the Passaic. The barges can clear some of the bridges only at low tide. Others like the Bridge Street Bridge have to be opened.

Dredging was to begin in July but was delayed a month when officials discovered the motors on the Bridge Street Bridge were inoperable. It is believed that salt water from Superstorm Sandy destroyed the motors that rotate the bridge where more than 11,000 cars cross.

New motors were installed, but the gear shafts that rotate the bridge were sheared

in recent weeks, said James Kennelly, a spokesman for Hudson County, which is repairing the bridge. New gears are being custom made for the bridge under a \$150,000 emergency contract issued by Hudson County.

“Our hope is that 30 days from this Monday everything can get started again,” Kennelly said.

The EPA plans to release a larger cleanup plan for the Passaic River’s lower eight miles sometime before the end of the year.

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